



A New Maya Macrolith Located

Stemp, W. James; Awe, Jaime J.; Helmke, Christophe

Published in:
Mexicon

Publication date:
2015

Document version
Other version

Document license:
[Unspecified](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Stemp, W. J., Awe, J. J., & Helmke, C. (2015). A New Maya Macrolith Located. *Mexicon*, 37(4), 83-84.

www.mexicon.de

B 11348 F

mexicon

Zeitschrift für Mesoamerikaforschung

Journal of Mesoamerican Studies – Revista sobre Estudios Mesoamericanos

Vol. XXXVII

August 2015

Nr. 4



Exhibits

Mayas: Revelation of an Endless Time

LIVERPOOL (World Museum). Until October 18, 2015, the World Museum hosts the exhibit *Mayas: Revelation of an Endless Time* which had previously been shown in Mexico City, Sao Paulo, and Paris and comprises 385 objects from museums and Maya sites in Mexico. This exhibit has been produced by the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) in Mexico. It is part of the 2015 'Year of Mexico in the United Kingdom' and 'Year of the United Kingdom in Mexico'. To celebrate the Year of Mexico in the UK, World Museum will also presents the Codex Fejérvary-Mayer, an exceptionally rare deer skin codex from the Mixtec of central Mexico, for the duration of the exhibition *Mayas: revelation of an endless time*. Contact: World Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN, United Kingdom; phone: + 44 151 478 4393;

<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/exhibitions/mayas/index.aspx>

(Source: <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/exhibitions/mayas/>)

Los Mayas y el Agua

ANTIGUA GUATEMALA (Fundación Ruta Maya). Hasta el 8 de noviembre de 2015 La Fundación La Ruta Maya con el apoyo del Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española y la Embajada de España, presenta la exposición titulada *Los Mayas y el Agua*. Esta exposición presenta casi un centenar de piezas prehispánicas cuyos materiales y formas tienen relación con el mundo acuático y marino-costero, ilustrando la importancia del agua en la naturaleza, la vida diaria, la dieta, el comercio y el ritual. Esta exposición estará abierta al público en la sede del Antiguo Colegio de la Compañía de Jesús en Antigua Guatemala. Esta colección está bajo la custodia de la Fundación La Ruta Maya con fines de conservación, protección, investigación, educación y exhibición al público con fines educativos. Como tal, está registrada como Patrimonio Cultural de la Nación ante el Registro de Bienes Culturales del Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes. Lugar: Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (CFCE) 6ª Avenida Norte, entre 3ra y 4ta Calle Poniente, Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala. Para más información visita: <http://www.larutamaya.com.gt/es/noticias/eventos/94-exposicion-los-mayas-y-el-agua>; <https://www.facebook.com/larutamaya> (Fuente: <http://www.larutamaya.com.gt/es/noticias/eventos/94-exposicion-los-mayas-y-el-agua>)

Guanajuato - Arqueología revelada

MÉXICO D.F. (INAH/www.inah.gob.mx). Más de 300 piezas integran la exposición *Guanajuato. Arqueología revelada*, que se presenta en hasta el 25 de octubre de 2015, en la Sala Luis García Guerrero del Museo de Arte e Historia de Guanajuato (MAHG), en la ciudad de León. La exposición se divide en ocho núcleos temáticos, cuatro de ellos dedicados a las zonas arqueológicas de Plazuelas, en Pénjamo; Peralta, en Abasolo; Cañada de la Virgen, en San Miguel de Allende, y el Cópore, en Ocampo, que han sido abiertas al público. Otras dos secciones abordan los procesos de investigación en los sitios de Arroyo Seco, en Victoria, y Cerro de los Remedios,

en Comonfort. Un rubro más hace referencia a la cultura en Chupícuaro, que se desarrolló en los márgenes del río Lerma, entre las ciudades de Acámbaro y Tarandacuao, y una última unidad temática alude a los vestigios encontrados en la ciudad de León, sede del museo donde se exhibe la muestra. Detalles constructivos de las llamadas "casas tapadas" de Plazuelas, el doble templo de Peralta, la Casa de los 13 Cielos de Cañada de la Virgen y la Plaza Cívica en Cerro de los Remedios, así como ejemplos de la pintura rupestre del noreste de Guanajuato, de gran riqueza iconográfica, se podrán apreciar en esta exposición. Vasijas, figurillas antropomorfas, joyería, herramientas, armas y otros objetos de uso cotidiano, complementan la muestra que, a través de recursos museográficos como ambientaciones, interactivos, proyecciones, maquetas y otros elementos, permite al público cercarse al pasado prehispánico de la entidad. La exposición, que es el resultado del trabajo de investigadores del INAH en Guanajuato, del Instituto Estatal de la Cultura y del Fórum Cultural Guanajuato.

(Fuente: <http://www.inah.gob.mx/boletines/498-exhiben-la-riqueza-arqueologica-de-guanajuato>)

Research Notes

A New Maya Macrolith Located

KEENE (W. James Stemp); FLAGSTAFF (Jaime J. Awe); COPENHAGEN (Christophe Helmke). Following the recent publication of the *Mexicon* contribution entitled "The Macrolith

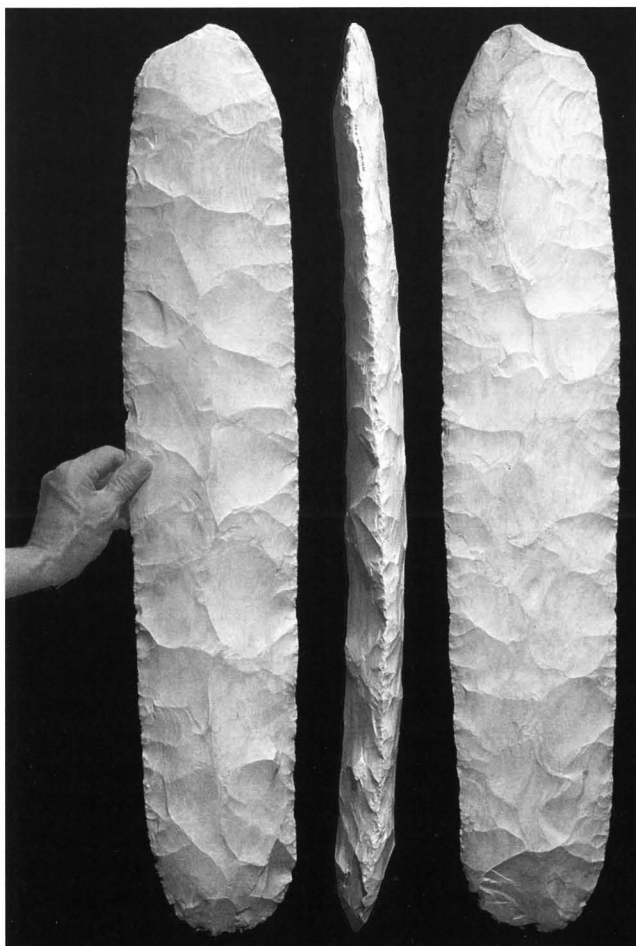


Fig. 1. The unprovenanced macrolith (Photograph by Peter Bostrom).

of El Chiquero, Belize” (Stemp *et al.* 2014), Dr. Francis E. Smiley IV of Northern Arizona University made us aware of the existence of a fifth chert macrolith, purportedly from Belize, in a private collection (Fig. 1). A description of this specimen has been posted by Peter A. Bostrom (2004) on the Lithic Casting Lab website. Based on the photographs and the metric data provided on the website the macrolith measures 82.5 cm long, 15.0 cm wide, 5.1 cm thick, and weighs 8.9 kg. As such it is very much like other macroliths with secure contexts excavated from sites in Belize. The macrolith most resembles the large chert biface from El Chiquero (Stemp *et al.* 2014: 145-146) in terms of general size, form, and reduction technique. Using length as a measure, the unprovenanced specimen would be the second largest specimen known, between that of El Chiquero (96.5 cm) and the large eccentric from Lamanai (77.6 cm) (Stemp *et al.* 2014: Fig. 3a-b). Like the other macroliths from Belize, this example is heavily patinated and appears to have been made from high-quality chert from the Northern Belize chert bearing zone. This specimen confirms that more macroliths may be found in collections outside of the Maya area, that more may be discovered during future excavations, and that these constitute an important class of Maya lithics.

References

- Bostrom, Peter A.
2004 Large Biface. Lithic Casting Lab: <http://lithiccastinglab.com/gallery-pages/2004marchlargemayabifacepage1.htm>
Stemp, W. James, Jaime J. Awe and Christophe Helmke
2014 The Macrolith of El Chiquero, Belize. *Mexicon*, 36 (5): 145-150.

A pyramid-palace structure in the southern Chenes region

AUGSBURG (Stephan Merk). The archaeological Chenes region in the central part of the Yucatan peninsula still belongs to the most unexplored and therefore unknown areas of the Maya culture. This is mostly due to the few roads that penetrate the region and the scarce population, especially in its southern part.

In the 19th century early explorers like John Lloyd Stephens and Teobert Maler were the first to report on ancient Chenes sites, as Santa Rosa Xtampak, Macoba, El Tabasqueño, Hochob, or Dzibiltun, to name only a few. Since then not too many additional ruin places could be added to the corpus, although specialists, among them Ricardo Robina, Lorelei Zapata, Paul Gendrop, George F. Andrews, Hanns J. Prem, Ursula Dyckerhoff, Iken Paap, and Karl Herbert Mayer contributed to our slowly growing knowledge about the Chenes region, and recently information about the El Delfin site was published in Mexico (Merk 2015).

Guided by some locals from Kankabchen, a village in the southern part of the Chenes area in the Mexican state of Campeche, Eduardo González Arce and Mexican staff member Stephan Merk on May 14th 2015 reached a hitherto unpublished Maya ruin around 6 km south of that modern settlement (Fig. 1). The site is registered by the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) in Campeche as Xpirtoni (Antonio Benavides Castillo, (written communication, August 2015). It is situated in flat terrain and consists of several destroyed structures, which today are only stone

mounds of various heights. One of them may once have been a pyramid, given its present-day shape.

Only one structure still presents some standing architecture. This Structure 1, as it was preliminarily designated, stands on a low platform in the northern part of the site. It has an east-west axis, faced south and is around 35 m long. Two distinctive features make Structure 1 interesting: although the building is largely collapsed, it is obvious that it once had two tower-like (or pyramid-like) architectural elements flanking a central row of double rooms, and at least the eastern tower or pyramid has an intact inner chamber. The latter is completely blocked by debris from the upper part of the tower (or even was intentionally buried).

Buildings with so-called “false” towers are a hallmark of the Rio Bec archaeological region south of the Chenes. The division between the two cultural areas, which share some architectural features and specifically the course of their common “border,” is not yet clear. At the moment it looks like the southernmost Chenes site could be the already mentioned El Delfin ruin, 20 km south of Xpirtoni; the northernmost Rio Bec sites are probably Pechal and Peor es Nada, some 35 and 40 km respectively, south of El Delfin. The Rio Bec towers, first recognized in the sketch of a floor plan by the German geographer Karl Sapper in the 1890s (Sapper 1897: 360, Figure 1) and later reported by French archaeologist Maurice de Périgny (1908) –who also baptized the area as Rio Bec (Rio Beque) –, are mostly solid and often squarish, with rounded corners. They flank a line of rooms on both sides. Very steep stairways, not made for actual use, lead to simulated so-called “temples” crowning these towers; their often richly decorated “entrances”, implied by a recess in the wall, lead to no room, given that these “temples” are also massive.

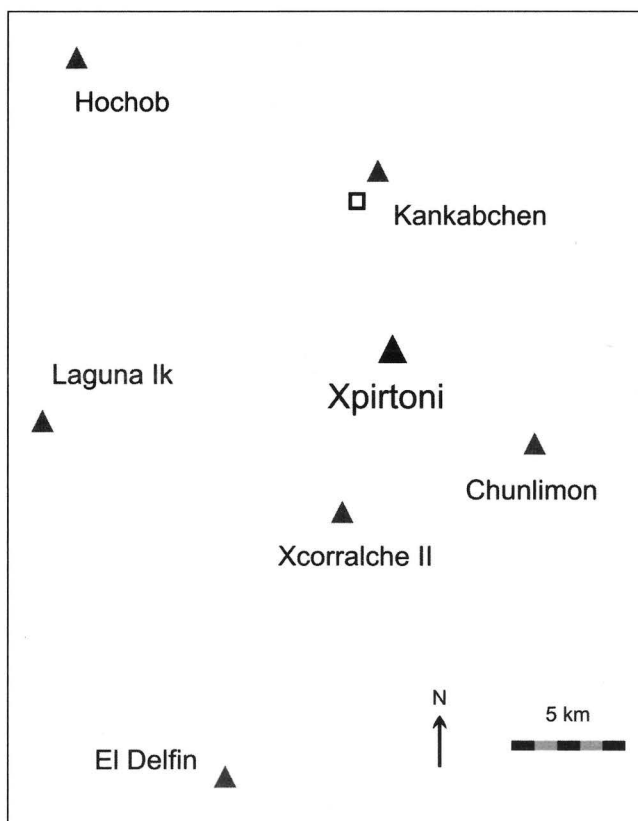


Fig. 1. Map of the area around Xpirtoni. Drawing: Stephan Merk.